



## Baptism

### WHAT IS BAPTISM?

As true followers of Christ, we are instructed to express our faith through being baptized. Baptism is an outward expression of what already took place in the heart of one who received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Through Baptism we identify symbolically with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Symbolically, we die to our old ways and rise out of the water into newness of life.

In what is known as the “Great Commission,” Jesus gave the following command: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

The word “baptize” is taken from the Greek word “baptizo” meaning “to immerse or submerge, to overflow or cover with water.” When we are baptized it is symbolic of the “old self” being buried (submerged in water) and the “new self” emerging (rising out of water) as a new creation.

### WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

- It shows our love for the Lord.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments”...“He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:15-21)

- It is an act of obedience.

Throughout the New Testament, water baptism was practiced following conversion. This was done in direct response to Jesus’ command that Christians everywhere are to “preach” and then “baptize” those who believe. Therefore, everyone who becomes a Christian should be baptized out of obedience to God.

- It is a statement of faith.

Baptism makes a public statement of your faith. In the New Testament baptism was practiced publicly. It is a powerful and meaningful way to fulfill Jesus’ promise, “Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32)

## **WHAT BAPTISM CANNOT DO**

Baptism cannot save you. Salvation comes through faith alone and not works. (Ephesians 2:8) Rather, it gives evidence through public action that a person is already saved.

Baptism cannot cleanse from sin. The cleansing of sin takes place when we believe and accept Christ and ask Him to cleanse our sins. (1 John 1:9) Baptism is a witness to our cleansing, but water itself is powerless to cleanse from sin.

Baptism cannot magically free us from sinful habits. Self-control, moral purity, holiness and much more are all benefits of receiving Christ and allowing the Holy Spirit to influence and change us. Baptism should represent a statement on our part to live lives free from such controlling passions. Baptism tells others you willingly submitted your life to the process of spiritual growth and change through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES ON BAPTISM**

Acts 8:26-39

Romans 6:1-4

*All scriptures quoted above are taken from the New King James Version, unless otherwise stated.*



## **BAPTISM FAQ'S**

### **Q. Do I need to be baptized in order to be saved?**

A. No. In Romans 10:9-10, the Word says that if we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart, we shall be saved. Titus 3:5 shows us that it is not by righteous works that we are saved. Furthermore, Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we are saved by grace through faith, not of works.

### **Q. Do I need to be saved first?**

A. Yes. Since baptism is an outward sign or expression of your faith in Jesus Christ, it is absolutely important you are a believer in Jesus Christ first. Also, in the book of Acts, we see this scenario followed by new believers; first conversion then baptism.

### **Q. How long after becoming a believer do I have to wait before I get baptized?**

A. According to Acts 8:12, 36-37, the only thing hindering baptism is not believing in Jesus. Once you have received Christ you may be baptized right away.

### **Q. Why was Jesus baptized?**

A. He was baptized as an example of obedience. Matthew 3:15 says, "But Jesus answered and said to them, 'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him."

### **Q. Do I need to be baptized again if I was baptized as a baby?**

A. Yes, because baptism is an outward expression of what took place in the heart of one who received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This requires repentance of sins and faith in Jesus. This is not possible for an infant.